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lated with small property owners, a revolutionary socialism would be rejected with horror. Capitalism has not made itself oppressively felt because there are no great opportunities for the exploitation of the public. There are no deposits of coal or iron, and transportation is owned by the state. Forests and water power are carefully supervised and the chances for private monopoly are minute. The political outlook therefore seems bright.

The author approached his subject as a thorough believer in democracy, and consequently found himself in sympathy with Swiss institutions, but the facts are so marshalled and his opinions are for the most part so temperately expressed that the argument for wider extension of direct democracy commands respect.

J. M. VINCENT.

ESSAI SUR L'HISTOIRE DES DOCTRINES DU CONTRAT SOCIAL. By FREDERIC ATGER. (Nîmes: Imprimerie Cooperative "La Laborieuse." 1906. Pp. 432.)

This work is almost spoiled by the exceedingly poor typographical workmanship. Two pages are taken up with "errata" and even then only a few of the numerous errors are corrected. It is to be regretted that in a work of merit, which this certainly is, the author should not have employed a better printer.

About one quarter of the treatise is taken up with the history of the theories of the social contract in antiquity and the middle ages. The balance of the work is devoted to a history of them from the sixteenth century to the present day. For this later period the author is able to go into considerable detail concerning the political and social conditions of the countries of Europe and to show how these conditions encouraged the spread of the theories of the social contract.

He does not, however, attempt to enumerate and describe all the writings in which the theory of the social contract is to be found. Any critic will find that certain works are not mentioned which might be included, but in general the selection of authors to be treated is well made and the treatises fully described. Though a little diffuse in certain portions the book is an excellent compendium of information along the line with which it deals in the field of political theory. Numerous quotations are given in support of the author's statements, but in no sense has he brought to light any new material or even presented it in a new fashion.

The method of treatment is too chronological. After the first chapter on the social contract in antiquity and the second on the middle ages the following chapters are given over to separate centuries. There is not enough of an attempt by the author to show the influence of one publicist on another.

About Rousseau and the theorists of the eighteenth century he goes into the greatest of detail and brings his subject down to the immediate present by the consideration of works by Fouillée, Léon Bourgeois, and of other juristic, socialistic and anarchistic writers of the present. It is in this last portion of the work that its greatest value lies, especially because of the large amount of space given to French writers. Aside from this Gierke's *Genossenschaftsrecht* will continue to stand as the definitive work on the history of the contract theory of the state as well as of the history of the general subject of contractual relations.

JAMES SULLIVAN.

A History of the English Agricultural Laborer. By Dr. W. HASBACH. Newly edited by the author and translated by RUTH KENYON. With a preface by SIDNEY WEBB, LL.B. (London: P. S. King and Son. Pp. xvi, 470.)

Dr. Hasbach's *History of the Agricultural Laborer* is more than an economic study, although its value in this respect is undoubted. It is, however, still more valuable as a contribution to political science; for it is the condition of the agricultural laborer as produced by legislation that is the theme of Dr. Hasbach's monograph. The early history of the English peasantry is passed over very lightly, and, in fact, it is clear that Dr. Hasbach has not made any exhaustive study of the manorial system in England. The real subject of Dr. Hasbach's search is the transition from a rural population attached to the land, and having rights in the soil, to an agricultural proletariat which took place in England as a consequence of the enclosure of commons and wastes and the deprivation of the agricultural population of all share in the land. This movement which took place in the later half of the eighteenth century and the first half of the nineteenth, was undoubtedly largely economic, and was due, as Dr. Hasbach points out, to the change in the character of agriculture, the introduction of more diversified crops and of machinery and more modern methods of farming; but these causes would not have made the enormous change in the position of the rural inhabi-